

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-44 are pending. The support for the amendment to Claims 1 and 6 is found in Figure 4 and the original claims 1 and 6. Independent claims 11 and 23 are originally presented and have not been amended. The amendment of Claims 2, 3, 5, and 7-10 are for clarification only and are supported by the respective original claims. The support for new Claims 35-44 is found in Figure 4. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Patent Office Rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the recitation of “the device” in line 2. The Patent Office indicated that there was a lack of clarity as to whether “the device” refers to the “first device” of Claim 11 or the “identified device.”

Claim 12 has been amended to recite “the device” as - - the identified device - -. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Specification

The disclosure was objected to by the Patent Office. The Patent Office suggested that “network 318” should be replaced with - - network 228 - -. The specification has accordingly been amended. Applicant requests that the Patent Office withdraw the objection to the Specification.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Patent Office rejected Claims 1-14, 17-20, 23-26, and 29-32 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Klosterman, U.S. Patent No. 5,828,945.

A claim is anticipated by a reference if each and every non-inherent limitation is disclosed by that reference. M.P.E.P. § 2131

Applicant wishes to point out that Klosterman cannot be a 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) reference because Klosterman issued less than one year before Applicant’s filing date.

Applicant respectfully submits Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are not anticipated by Klosterman.

Claims 11-34 recite "identifying at least one device coupled to the information handling system" and "determining whether the identified device is capable of being utilized as a program source." Klosterman does not disclose a step of determining whether an identified device is capable of being utilized as a program source. In Klosterman, all the connections disclosed are program sources. There is no step in which a device is discriminated to determine if it is also a program source. Thus, Claims 11-34 are not anticipated by Klosterman.

Claims 13 and 35 recite "a virtual channel" and "an actual channel." Klosterman (column 6, lines 34-48) discloses a user may type in data or data may be input from a medium and that sorting may be performing. Klosterman does not disclose "a virtual channel" and "an actual channel." Thus, Klosterman does not anticipate Claims 13 and 35.

Claims 19 and 31 recite "in the event it is determined that the identified device is capable of being utilized as a program source, continuing the method with said identifying step for additional devices that may be available to the network." Klosterman does not disclose a determination if an identified device is capable of being utilized as a program source. Thus, Klosterman does not anticipate Claims 19 and 31.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Patent Office rejected Claims 15, 16, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Klosterman in view of Tsumori, U.S. Patent No. 5,438,372.

Claims 15, 16, 27, and 28 are allowable because they depend from allowable base Claims 11 or 23.

The Patent Office rejected Claims 21, 22, 33, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Klosterman in view of Iwamura, U.S. Patent No. 5,883,621.

When applying 35 U.S.C. 103, the following tenets of patent law must be adhered to: (A) the claimed invention must be considered as a whole; (B) the references must be considered as a whole and must suggest the desirability and thus the obviousness of

making the combination; (C) the references must be viewed without the benefit of impermissible hindsight vision afforded by the claimed invention; and (D) reasonable expectation of success is the standard with which obviousness is determined. *See MPEP § 2141 and Hodosh v. Block Drug Co., Inc.*, 786 F.2d 1136, 1143 n.5, 220 USPQ 182, 187 n.5 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Claims 21 and 33 recite a monitoring step to search for the presence of additional devices. In contrast, Iwamura discloses an announcement step. Thus, Claims 21 and 33 are allowable over any combination of Klosterman and Iwamura.

Claims 22 and 34 recite a monitoring step in which "at least one additional device" notifies "the information handling system of said at least one additional device's presence. Iwamura discloses a reset signal that forces all nodes into a special state when a node is added. Iwamura does not disclose the additional device notifies the information handling system of its presence. Thus, Claims 22 and 34 are allowable over any combination of Klosterman and Iwamura.

It is believed that new Claims 35-44 are allowable over the prior art of record.

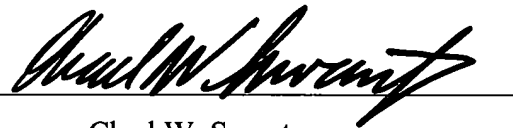
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing arguments and amendments, reconsideration of all pending claims is requested, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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